

CLAIMS:

1. An electronic connector apparatus for a cable having a plurality of signal conductors and a ground, the apparatus comprising:
 - 5 an insulative body including a plurality of contact-receiving openings formed therein; and
 - a contact array including a carrier strip and a plurality of contacts coupled to the carrier strip, the plurality of contacts being located in the plurality of contact-receiving openings of the body, selected ones of the plurality of contacts being coupled to the signal conductors of the cable, and the carrier strip being coupled to an end portion of the cable in contact with the ground of the cable to provide a ground connection between the cable ground and at least one of the plurality of contacts.
- 10 2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for securing the carrier strip to the cable.
- 15 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the carrier strip includes at least one retention section that is configured to pierce the end portion of the cable to couple the carrier strip and the contact array to the cable.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the retention section is electrically coupled to a ground shield located within the cable.
- 20 5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one end cap coupled to the body to prevent plastic from entering a mating area of the body during an overmolding process.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the at least one end cap includes at least one spring arm to couple the at least one end cap to the body.
- 25 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the contact array includes a plurality of couplers configured to couple the selected contacts to the signal conductors of the cable electrically, without the use of solder.
8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of couplers are insulation displacement contact sections.
- 30 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cable ground includes at least one drain wire extending from the end portion of the cable, the carrier strip being coupled to the end portion of the cable in contact with the at least one drain wire to

provide a ground connection between the at least one drain wire and at least one of the plurality of contacts.

10. A method for coupling an electrical connector to a cable having a plurality of signal conductors and a ground, the method comprising:

5 providing an insulative body including a plurality of contact-receiving openings formed therein;

providing a contact array including a carrier strip and a plurality of contacts, the carrier strip being used to support the plurality of contacts during a forming process;

10 inserting the plurality of contacts into the contact-receiving openings of the body;

coupling the carrier strip to an end portion of the cable; and

separating selected ones of the plurality of contacts from the carrier strip.

15 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising coupling selected ones of the plurality of contacts to the signal conductors of the cable.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising coupling carrier strip to the ground of the cable to provide a ground connection between cable ground and at least one of the plurality of contacts.

20 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the carrier strip includes at least one retention section which is configured to pierce the end portion of the cable to couple the carrier strip and the contact array to the cable.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the retention section is electrically coupled to a ground shield located within the cable.

25 15. The method of claim 10, further comprising attaching at least one end cap to the body to prevent plastic from entering a mating area of the body, and overmolding portions of the body, the carrier, and the cable.

30 16. The method of claim 10, wherein the cable ground includes at least one drain wire extending from the end portion of the cable, the carrier strip being coupled to the end portion of the cable in contact with the at least one drain wire to provide a ground connection between the at least one drain wire and at least one of the plurality of contacts.

-10-

17. An electronic connector apparatus for a cable having a plurality of signal conductors and a ground, the apparatus comprising:

an insulative body including a plurality of contact-receiving openings formed therein;

5 a conductive strip coupled to an end portion of the cable in contact with the cable ground; and

10 a plurality of contacts located in the plurality of contact-receiving openings of the body, the plurality of contacts including a plurality of signal contacts coupled to the signal conductors of the cable, and at least one ground contact coupled to the conductive strip to provide a ground connection between the cable ground and the at least one ground contact through the conductive strip.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the at least one ground contact is a separate piece from the conductive strip.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the at least one ground contact is formed integrally with the conductive strip.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for securing the conductive strip to the cable.

21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the conductive strip includes at least one retention section that is configured to pierce the end portion of 20 the cable to couple the conductive strip and the at least one ground contact to the cable.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the retention section is electrically coupled to a ground shield located within the cable.

23. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising at least one end 25 cap coupled to the body to prevent plastic from entering a mating area of the body during an overmolding process.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the at least one end cap includes at least one spring arm to couple the at least one end cap to the body.

25. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the plurality of signal 30 contacts each include a coupler configured to couple the signal contact to a signal conductor of the cable electrically, without the use of solder.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the couplers are insulation displacement contact sections.

-11-

27. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the cable ground includes at least one drain wire extending from the end portion of the cable, the conductive strip being coupled to the end portion of the cable in contact with the at least one drain wire to provide a ground connection between the at least one drain wire and the

5 at least one ground contact.

28. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the conductive strip is a carrier strip for use in forming the plurality of contacts.

29. The method of installing the connector apparatus of claim 17 on the cable.

10